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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,769	03/29/2004	Akihiro Matsui	0941.70218	9515

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Patrick G. Burns, Esq.
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.
Suite 2500
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

EXAMINER

LOUIE, WAI SING

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2814

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/811,769

Applicant(s)

MATSUI ET AL.

Examiner

Wai-Sing Louie

Art Unit

2814

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Powell (US 6,495,386).

With regard to claim 1, Powell discloses an active matrix device (col. 3, line 36 to col. 6, line 24 and fig. 5-6), comprising:

- an insulating substrate 21 (col. 3, line 57);
- a thin film transistor (TFT) R2 arranged in each of the pixel areas R4 on the insulating substrate 21 (col. 3, line 61 to col. 4, line 9 and fig. 5 to fig. 6);
- an auxiliary capacitor R5 having an auxiliary capacitor electrode 16 arranged in the pixel area and an opposite electrode 15' located in same layer as source electrode 22 and a drain electrode 22' of the TFT R2 (col. 4, lines 9-13 and fig. 6);
- a pixel electrode 32 formed in the pixel area R4, where the opposite electrode 15' is divided into two sections in each of the pixel areas R4, and each of the sections is electrically connected to the pixel electrode 32 via a contact hole R6 (col. 4, lines 3-9 and fig. 5 to fig. 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Powell (US 6,495,386) in view of Kitakado et al. (US 6,709,902).

With regard to claims 2 and 6, Powell discloses one of the divided sections of the opposite electrode 15' is connected to the drain electrode 22' of the TFT R2 via a connection R3 located in the same layer as the opposite electrode 15' and the drain electrode 22' (fig. 5 and 6), but do not disclose the opposite electrode 15' is connected to the source electrode 22. However, Kitakado et al. disclose a pixel TFT comprises a drive circuit TFT and a buffer TFT (Kitakado col. 1, lines 33-40). Kitakado et al. teach the addition of a buffer TFT would not breakdown when a high voltage is applied and make a current drive ability higher (col. 1, lines 50-59). Powell and Kitakado et al. have substantially the same environment of display device having a pixel drive circuit. Therefore, it would have been obvious for the one with ordinary skill in the art to modify Powell's device with the teaching of Kitakado et al. to provide a buffer TFT on the pixel drive circuit in order to prevent breakdown when a high voltage is applied and make a current drive ability higher. Powell modified by Kitakado et al. would disclose the opposite electrode 166 connecting to the source electrode 162 (Kitakado fig. 3).

With regard to claim 3, Powell modified by Kitakado et al. would disclose the pixel electrode 146 has a shape defining orientation of liquid crystal 606 and the electrical connection 604 extends along a boundary between domains with different orientations of the liquid crystal 605 (Kitakado col. 18, lines 32-44).

With regard to claim 4, Powell discloses the source electrode 22 and the opposite electrode 15' are formed of the same material (fig. 6a), but do not disclose the connection R6 is formed of the same material. Since the applicant has not established the criticality of the material stated and since these materials are in common use in similar devices in the art, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use any material that can function in the same manner. See in *re Pearson*, *Ex parte Minks*, and *In re Swinehart*.

With regard to claim 5, Powell modified by Kitakado et al. would disclose the pixel electrode 146 has a shape with branches extending to the left and right, and the electrical connection 604 extends along a center line of the pixel electrode 146 (Kitakado fig. 8).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

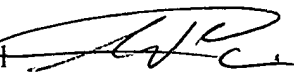
Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

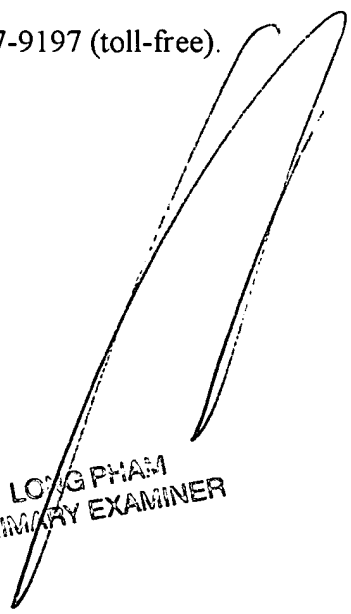
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wai-Sing Louie whose telephone number is (571) 272-1709. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael Fahmy can be reached on (571) 272-1705. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Wsl 
November 25, 2005.


LONG PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER